Social capital: introductory user guide

ESDS Government

Author: C. Hall, Office for National Statistics
Updated by: Necla Acik-Toprak

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Introduction

Social capital research informs the extent to which people are civically engaged and their level of trust. High social capital in the form of social networks is suggested to lead to a variety of outcomes including economic growth and educational attainment. Employed individuals with extensive social contacts have been shown to progress further (Halpern, 2005)[1]. Although it is claimed that social capital can have an impact in terms of better health outcomes there is yet insufficient evidence to state that social capital is a causal factor.

This document provides a summary of the key aspects of government surveys conducted in the UK where information collected includes some aspect of social capital (see Table 2). All major government surveys and some key non-government surveys are included. The list under 'Large-Scale Social Capital Surveys' separates those supported by the Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS) and those that are not.

Background to social capital measurement

Social capital is a multi-faceted concept that embodies networks and norms.

In 2003 a cross-governmental working group agreed to adopt the OECD definition of social capital across government departments. This is "networks together with shared norms, values and understandings that facilitate co-operation within or among groups".

Social capital has been described as having three main types: bonding, bridging and linking.
Bonding social capital - describes close connections between people and is characterised by strong bonds, e.g. among family members or close friends; it is good for "getting by" in life.

Bridging social capital - describes more distant connections between people and is characterised by weaker, but more cross-cutting ties, e.g. with business associates, acquaintances, friends of friends or those of a different ethnic group or social class; it is good for "getting ahead" in life.

Linking social capital - describes connections with people in positions of power and is characterised by relations between those within a hierarchy where there are different levels of power; it is good for accessing support from formal institutions. This is concerned with relations between people who are not on an equal footing e.g. job searching at the Job Centre.

To support the measurement of social capital the Office for National Statistics (ONS) identified the key dimensions that underpin it:

- views about the local area (e.g. satisfaction with living in the area, problems in the area, fear of crime)
- civic participation (e.g. propensity to vote, action on local and national issues)
- social networks and support (e.g. contact with friends and relatives)

- social participation (e.g. involvement in groups and voluntary activities)
- reciprocity and trust (e.g. trusting other people, trust in the courts or police)

These form the framework for a question set developed specifically to support central and local government surveys.

Social Capital Harmonised Question Set (HQS)

The process of harmonisation involves the use of standard questions and outputs with common classifications and definitions for key concepts.

In 2001 it was identified that government surveys were including questions on social capital but a variety of approaches were being used. In some surveys the questions had the specific intention of measuring social capital while in others they did not.

In 2003 the Office for National Statistics published a set of questions that are recommended by the cross-governmental working group for measuring social capital. The aim was to bring greater consistency to the measurement of social capital, allowing for comparison between data sources and the aggregation of data from disparate sources. It also allows the comparison of national and sub-national survey data.

The questions were developed to capture core aspects of social capital. Using information from the social capital question bank (see link below) as a base, a draft set of questions was developed. A pilot of the proposed questions, which incorporated both bridging and bonding, was run on the NS Omnibus survey in May, June and July 2003. Bridging questions were not included in the final HQS as further development work was needed on them.

The HQS has been adopted either fully or partially since its development in the following surveys:

- Survey of English Housing (selected questions)
- Home Office Citizenship Survey 2005 (core)
- General Household Survey Trailer 2004/05 (full)
- Health Survey for England older focus questions 2005 (selected questions)
- Families and Children Survey Wave 7 (2005) (core)

Full details on each of these surveys are provided in Table 2.

Work is progressing on a postal version of the core HQS in conjunction with the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen).

Further details on the Harmonised Question Set can be found in the following ONS papers:

- Social Capital Indicators[2]
- Development of the Harmonised Questions[3]

See also The Social Capital Project.[4]

Large-Scale Social Capital Surveys

The following section lists large-scale surveys that include questions on dimensions of social capital. These are shown as those supported by ESDS Government[5], those supported by ESDS Longitudinal[6] and others.

ESDS Government

- British Social Attitudes/Scottish Social Attitudes/Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey
- British Crime Survey/Scottish Crime Survey/Northern Ireland Crime Survey
- General Household Survey/Continuous Household Survey
- Health Survey for England
- Survey of English Housing
- UK Time Use Survey

ESDS Longitudinal

- British Household Panel Survey
- English Longitudinal Study of Ageing
- Understanding Society[7]

Others

- Breadline Britain/Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey/Bare Necessities: Poverty and Social Exclusion in Northern Ireland
- British Election Study
- Citizen Audit Questionnaire
- English House Condition Survey
- Families and Children Survey
- Scottish Household Survey
- Health Education Monitoring Survey
- Northern Ireland Health and Social Well-being Survey

- Citizenship Survey
- National Adult Learning Survey
- Samples of Anonymised Records (SARs)
- Taking Part: The National Survey of Culture, Leisure and Sport
- Youth Lifestyles Survey/Offending Crime and Justice Survey

Useful links

- *Australian Bureau of Statistics – Social Capital pages*[8]
- *Survey Question Bank*[9]
- *ESDS Government: survey-specific web pages* [10]
- *ESDS Government: Publications Database*[11]
- *National Centre for Social Research*[12]
- *Office for National Statistics – The Social Capital Project*[13]
- *OECD – Human and Social Capital*[14]
- *Siena Group*[15]
- *Social Capital Gateway*[16]
- *Economic and Social Data Service*[17]

British Household Panel Survey

The British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) began in 1991. It is run by the Institute for Social and Economic Research at the University of Essex and funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

The BHPS was designed as a research resource for a wide range of social science disciplines. It was planned that the data would be used to further understanding of social and economic change at both the individual and household level. Initially it was designed for GB coverage and was extended to the UK in 2001.

It is unique in design in that it:

- follows the same representative sample of individuals over a period of years
- is household-based, interviewing every adult member of sampled households
- contains sufficient cases for meaningful analysis of certain groups such as the elderly or lone parent families

Sample sizes

- Wave 1 (1991): 5,500 households (10, 300 individuals) drawn from GB
- 1999: 1,500 households added in both Wales and Scotland
- 2001: 2,000 households added from Northern Ireland

The sample was drawn from the Small User Postcode Address File. All residents present at the first wave are designated as panel members. These individuals are re-interviewed each successive year and, if they split off from original households and form new households, they are followed and all adult members of the new households are also interviewed. New adults joining the sample households are eligible for interview and children are interviewed once they reach age 16.

Full details of the relevant social capital elements can be found in Table 1.

Table 1: Rotating core topics on BHPS

Topic	Waves
Crime	7, 12, 17
Local services and facilities	8, 13, 18
Voting questions	All waves
Whether voted in last election	2, 5, 7-13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18
Attitudes to government	2, 4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 16
Trust	8, 10, 13, 15, 17, 18
Neighbourhood	8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18
Social networks	2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18
Social support	1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18
Social and interest group membership and activity	1-5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17
Leisure activity including some on community	6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 17

For more details on the British Household Panel Survey[18] see the Institute for Social and Economic Research pages at the University of Essex.

From Wave 19, the BHPS will be subsumed into a new longitudinal study called *Understanding Society*[19], or the United Kingdom Household Longitudinal Study (UKHLS), conducted by ISER. The BHPS Wave 19 will be part of *Understanding Society* Wave 2 (January 2010 - March 2011).

General Lifestyle Survey (formerly General Household Survey) – Social Capital Trailers and EU-SILC

The General Household Survey (GHS)[20] is a multi-purpose continuous survey carried out by the Office for National Statistics. It is sponsored by the Office for National Statistics and a variety of government departments. The main aim of the survey is to collect data on a range of core topics, covering household, family and individual information. It is therefore a useful data source for linking social capital data with other topics, such as employment, family information or health.

Methodology
The GHS started in 1971 and has been carried out continuously since then, except for breaks in 1997-1998 when the survey was reviewed, and 1999-2000 when the survey was redeveloped. Following the 1997 review, the survey was relaunched from April 2000 with a different design. There have been a number of methodological changes to the GHS since its start in 1971, including:

- the small users Postcode Address File (PAF) replaced the Electoral Registers as the sampling frame in 1984
- since 1988 the survey has been based on the financial year rather than calendar year but returned to the calendar year in January 2006
- until 1994 a supplementary sample of addresses was selected in Scotland to improve estimates in separate analyses for Scotland
- since 1994 interviews have been conducted using computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) on laptop computers
- following recommendations from the 1997 review of the GHS, a number of significant methodological changes took place from 2000 onwards, including changes to the sample design, alternative methods of data collection, questionnaire content and the introduction of weighting.
- To meet the requirements of EU data collection, the GHS is now used to collect information for the EU-SILC (European Union Survey of Income and Living Conditions). One of the main features of this is the need for the GHS to supply both cross-sectional and longitudinal data. This requirement has resulted in a change to the GHS sample design to a four-yearly rotation, an increase in sample size and additional core questions. The GHS began data collection for EU-SILC in April 2005.

Further information about the methodology of the GHS can be found in Appendix B of the GHS online reports[21].

Overview of questions
The survey consists of two elements: a set of core questions that are included every year and a set of non-core questions ("trailers") that are included at certain intervals, for example, every two years or every five years. The 1997 review of the GHS resulted in the core questions remaining unchanged for the five-year period April 2000 to March 2005, apart from essential changes to take account of, for example, changes

in benefits or pensions (see the Living in Britain[22] and Survey Question[23] on Bank web sites for further details). The core element consists of a household questionnaire to be answered by the Household Reference Person (Appendix A of the 2002 report[24] gives a detailed definition) or spouse and an individual questionnaire to be completed by all adults aged 16 or over resident in the household.

In 2000 a social capital trailer was run on the GHS. This included questions on the local area, fear of crime, participation and trust. The trailer was funded by the Health Development Agency as part of a larger body of work to further understanding of social capital in terms of its meaning, measurement and links to health within the British population. The social capital module was also a step in the development of the harmonised question set.

In 2004/05 the full HQS was run as a trailer on the GHS. This is the first time the full HQS has been run on a large scale survey.

In 2006, as part of EU-SILC, a module on cultural and social participation was included on the GHS. This includes questions on cultural participation (e.g. attendance at the cinema and sporting events), how often friends and relatives are seen/spoken to and membership of clubs.

The Citizenship Survey

The Citizenship Survey (formerly known as the Home Office Citizenship Survey or HOCS) has been conducted on a biennial basis from 2001-2011. The survey provides an evidence base for the work of Communities and Local Government (formerly the Department for Communities and Local Government), principally on the issues of community cohesion, community engagement, race and faith, volunteering and civil renewal, and is also used extensively for developing policy and for performance measurement. The achieved sample size each year is approximately 10,000 adults in England and Wales (plus an additional boost sample of 5,000 adults from minority ethnic groups). In 2003 there were supplementary booster samples of children (eight and nine-year-olds), young people (10 to 15-year-olds), and 20 local areas. In 2005 the core harmonised question set on social capital was included on the HOCS.

Since 2007, the survey has moved to a continuous design, allowing the provision of headline findings on a quarterly basis. These headline findings are being issued through a Statistical Release. Detailed reports based on the entire annual dataset are also to be published once a year. Further information about the survey and links to the statistical releases[25] can be found on the Communities and Local Government Citizenship Survey[26] web pages. Further information is also available from the ESDS Citizenship Survey pages[27]. The Citizenship has been cancelled in 2011 due to budgetary cuts[28].

Table 2: Summary of large-scale surveys containing social capital data

This table details the survey name, key social capital questions and the years they were asked (where relevant) and other topics the survey covered. Under the Survey section there are links to survey information, the most recent questionnaire and the data, when this is available. The remaining columns detail in which year each survey was conducted, the target respondents for the survey, the number of respondents to the survey and what coverage the survey data is available for.

Survey	Social capital questions	Other topics in survey	Measurement over time	Respondents	Sample	Geographical level
Breadline Britain Data[29] (1990 data unavailable at present)	• Access to necessity and luxury items • Perceptions of poverty	• Access to services (e.g. libraries) • Employment • Health • Income • Demographics	1983, 1990	Adults aged over 16 living in private households	Great Britain In 1983 1,174 adults In 1990 1,319 adults plus 512 adults living in deprived areas	National
Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey[30] Data[31]	• Perceptions of poverty • Social networks and support	• Housing • Health • Time poverty • Necessities • Finance and debts • Intra-household poverty • Poverty over time • Absolute and overall poverty • Area deprivation • Local services • Crime • Child's school	1999 Designed as update to Breadline Britain	Adults aged 16 and over living in private households *For detail on selection see weighting and grossing section*	Great Britain 1,534 interviews achieved	Countries Standard Regions

		• Demographics • Income				
Bare Necessities – poverty and social exclusion in Northern Ireland[32]	• Perceptions of poverty • Community support (Module A) Modules A or B randomly assigned to individuals in household	• Necessities and economising • Opinions on standard of living • Intra-household living standards • Health and disability • Economic activity • Income • Assets and debt	Two surveys carried out between June 2002 and January 2003 1. identification of 'necessities' 2. numbers of households lacking theses necessities	All household members aged 16 and over	Northern Ireland 1,425 interviews achieved	Northern Ireland
British Crime Survey[33] Data[34]	• Fear of crime • Perceptions of anti social behaviour • Social capital module included since the 2001/02 survey, includes questions on neighbourhoods and civic participation	• Demographic information • Household and personal experience of crime	Waves carried out in 1982, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998 and 2000. From 2001 it became an annual survey.	Adults aged 16 and over in private households	England and Wales In 2008-09 46,286 cases (non-victim form); 16,184 cases (victim form)	Standard regions Police Force Areas (for limited questions only)
Scottish Crime and Justice Survey[35] Link to 2009-10 questionnaire[36]	• Views on social issues • Fear of crime • Views of respondent's locality	• Levels of crime • Household and personal experience of victimisation • Contact with the police • Demographics • Experience of Domestic Abuse (self-completion questionnaire)	In 1982 and 1988 the Crime Survey in Scotland formed part of the British Crime Survey (BCS) - the Scottish part of the 1988 BCS	Variations in different years. e.g. the 2000 survey had an ethnic boost. Older surveys included children but	Scotland 2006: Non-victim file: 4,988 cases. Victim file: 2,596 cases.	For 2006: Police Force Area, Acorn, Mosaic, Urban-rural indicator (8-category).

		• Self-reported drug misuse (self-completion questionnaire) • Victimisation among a sample of young people	was also known as the Scottish Areas Crime Survey. In 1993 the first independent Scottish Crime Survey was carried out. It was repeated in 1996, 2000 and 2003. In 2004 the survey was redesigned and renamed the Scottish Crime and Victimisation Survey. In 2008, it was renamed the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey.	more recent surveys interview one randomly selected adult in each household.		
Northern Ireland Crime Survey[37]	• Fear of crime • Perceptions of anti-social behaviour • Perceptions of experiencing a crime	• Experience of personal and household crime • Crime and personal safety • The police, police monitoring arrangements and the criminal justice system • Experience of illicit drugs • Experience of domestic violence	Surveys in 1994/95, 1998, 2001 and 2003/04 Continuous survey from January 2005	One adult aged 16 or over per household	Northern Ireland 2003/04: 3,104 adults	3 regions: Belfast, East of Northern Ireland, West of Northern Ireland. Urban / Rural indicator.
British Election	• Political citizenship	Main topics:	Run at every	Aged 18 and	Great Britain	Standard regions

Study[38] 2005 Questionnaire[39] Data[40]	• Civic engagement (based on face-to-face component of survey) Based on question in 2001. In 2005 additional questions asked on • Social network effects • Civic duties	• Political preference and values • Economic perceptions • Social attitudes • Dispositions to engage in different forms of political activity • Individual and household socio-demographic characteristics	general election since 1964	over - one randomly selected adult in each household	The 2005 BES comprised a series of linked studies. · The British Election Study pre-election cross-section survey · The British Election Study pre-election internet survey · The Rolling Campaign Panel survey · The British Election Study post-election panel and cross-section survey · The British Election Study post-election internet survey.	
British Household Panel Survey[41] Questionnaires waves 1-18[42] Data[43]	Section on Values and Opinions in Individual questionnaire: • Neighbourhoods • Reciprocity • Participation • Trust	Core questionnaire • Household composition • Housing conditions • Residential mobility • Education and training • Health and the usage of health services	Full questionnaire asked annually since 1991 Social capital questions are part of the	Panel study therefore same group of individuals interviewed each year.	Great Britain 1991 onwards United Kingdom 2001 onwards	Local Authority Districts Counties Unitary Authority Areas

		• Labour market behaviour • Socio-economic values • Income from employment, benefits and pensions	'rotating core' of See Table 1 above for more details.	All household members 16 and over In 1994 A Youth self-completion element added – children aged 11 – 15	Wave 1 base was 5,500 households in GB In 1999 an additional 1,500 households added in both Wales and Scotland. In 2001 a sample of 2,000 households added in Northern Ireland.	
British Social Attitudes[44] Link to 2008 questionnaire[45] Data[46]	• Political attitudes • Political participation • Social trust	The survey covers a wide range of social, moral and political issues. Some topics are covered every or nearly every year (for example, taxation and spending, the NHS, politics, labour market participation, the welfare state, religion). Other topics are covered less regularly (for example, marriage, gender roles, national identity)	Annually since 1983 Exceptions in 1988 and 1992 when funding went to the British Election Study In 1997 a scaled down version of BSA done in conjunction with the British	One randomly selected individual (aged 18+) in each sampled household.	Great Britain Achieved 4,468 individuals in 2008.	Government Office Regions

			Election study for continuity			
Scottish Social Attitudes[47] Link to 2007 questionnaire[48] Data[49]	Varies depending on year, for example: 2004: • Views of local area • Democracy and participation • Social support • Environmental justice in local area • Social trust 2003 • Political trust 2002 • Democracy and participation • Views of local area 2001 • Caring 2000 • Social capital module • Democracy and participation • Voluntary activity 1999 • Political trust	As British Social Attitudes, with additional Scottish modules such as views on the devolved administration.	Began in 1999 as an annual Scottish sister survey to the British Social Attitudes survey. Annually since then.	Persons aged 18 years and over resident in Scotland, including north of the Great Glen.	Scotland Achieved 1,508 adults in 2007	2006: urban-rural variables Generally: Postcode Districts, Local Authority Areas and Parliamentary Constituencies. From 2000 wards are included and in 2002 the Scottish Household Survey (SHS) 6-fold urban-rural classification. From 2004 wards will no longer be available on dataset.

NI Life and Times (NILT) Survey[50] Link to 2009 questionnaire[51] Link to NILT datasets from ARK[52]/ESDS[53]	2009: Political behaviour and attitudes; Social attitudes and behaviour; Leisure, tourism and sport 2008: Political behaviour and attitudes; Social attitudes and behaviour 2007:Political attitudes, Trust in public services 2006: Political attitudes 2005: Political participation 2001:Social networks 1998: Crime and fear of crime	Questions on • Background • Community relations and • Political attitudes are asked every year. Information on other topics asked each year can be found here[54].	Northern Ireland Life and Times survey began in 1998. This was based around the Northern Ireland Social Attitudes Survey that ran from 1989 to 1986.	One randomly selected individual (aged 18+) in each sampled household.	Northern Ireland 2009: 1,228 obtained interviews	Northern Ireland
Census 2001 Questionnaires: England and Wales[55] Scotland[56] Northe[57]rn Ireland Data[58]	• Caring Individual questionnaire: Q12 – E&W Q17 – Scotland Q12 – N Ireland	• Demographic information • Household composition • Housing • Employment	2001 only. Inclusion in 2011 to be decided	All UK residents	United Kingdom	

Citizen Audit Questionnaire[59] Data[60]	• Attachment to local area • Satisfaction • Trust • Participation	• Political interests • European Monetary system • Media • Demographic characteristics	One off in 2001 including panel follow up	UK residents aged 18 and over.	Great Britain Face to face component – 3,140 Panel re-interview component – 804 Mail back component – 8564	Local Authorities Standard regions
English House Condition Survey[61] Data 1986[62] (ESDS) Data 1991[63] – (Data from 1991 onwards on the ODPM website)	• Local environment • Trust (2004-05)	Interview Survey: • Household characteristics • Satisfaction with home and area • Property details Physical survey -completed on house by qualified surveyor after interview Market value survey -two market valuations of the property provided Private landlord survey - interview with landlord of those privately renting	1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, Run continuously from 2002 to April 2008 when it was integrated with the Survey of English Housing to form the new English Housing Survey (EHS)	Households and dwellings	England 2006 – achieved sample was 16,269 households (or 15,648 dwellings)	England
English Longitudinal[64]	Included in Waves 1 and 2:	• Demographics (households and	Wave 0 1998, 1999, 2001	Core sample: Representative	England	At present the ELSA team are not

Study of Ageing Questionnaires[65] Data[66]	• Informal care giving • Membership of organisations • Social and civic participation Wave 3: • Social participation • Voluntary work • Memberships of organisations • Social networks/support • View of local area	individuals) • Income and assets • Pensions • Employment • Housing • Material consumption • Physical and mental health • Cognitive function • Expectations for the future	Waves 1-4 2002-2009	sample of those aged 50 and over (born on or after 29/02/52) living in private households. Also: Younger partners (cohabiting spouses or partners) of core sample member at time of HSE interview New partners: (cohabiting spouses or partners) of the core sample member who were not there at the HSE interview but were present at ELSA interviews	Original sample based on Health Survey for England (1998, 1999 and 2001) Wave 1 12,100 participants Wave 2: 9,433 participants Wave 3: 9,771 participants	depositing any variables which will allow analysis by or on spatial units. However, in certain circumstances these data can provided to researchers who want to use it. Details of how to obtain access to these data are given in the User Guide for Geographical Variables[67], from the ELSA documentation at ESDS
Families and Children Study[68] (previously Survey of Low-Income Families) Questionnaire[69]	• Family support networks • Participation • Control • Caring • Neighbourhood The core HQS is being asked in 2005	• Family characteristics • Schooling • Children's physical activity • Education • Local services for children • Child maintenance payments • Childcare • Deprivation	Wave 1 (baseline data): July to September 1999 Wave 2: June to October 2000 Wave 3: September 2001	'Mother figure' in household For Waves 5 and 6 a self-completion questionnaire was administered to	Great Britain Refreshed Panel sample - panel from 1999 re-interviewed in subsequent years. Sample	National

Data[70] (1999-2005)			- January 2002 Wave 4: September 2002 - January 2003 Wave 5: 2003 Wave 6: 2004 Wave 7: 2005	children 11-15	boosted each wave for additional cross-sectional elements. Wave 5: 7,293 respondents	
General Household Survey[71] Link to 2006 questionnaire[72] Data[73]	2000/01 Social Capital Module 2004/05 HQS 2006 EU-SILC (European Union Survey of Income and Living Conditions) Social and cultural participation Module. Incorporating pan-EU comparable longitudinal design. See Eurostat[74] web site.	• Education, • Employment, • Health • Household and family information, • Housing tenure • Consumer durables, • Smoking • Drinking • Pensions; • and many others 1972-2004 Time-series dataset[75] available.	Annually from 1971 (except for breaks in 1997/98 when the survey was reviewed and 1999/2000 when it was redeveloped). The 1971 data is not downloadable from ESDS and is only available in ASCII. Significant methodological changes from 2000 onwards. In 2005 the survey changed and introduced a longitudinal component	All individuals aged 16+ resident in the sampled household.	Great Britain Achieved 9,700 households (23,000 individual interviews) in 2006.	2006: Government Office Region (GOR)

			(GHS-L/EU-SILC). The 2006 dataset is the first to contain this data (see ESDS study description)[76].			
Scottish Household Survey[77] Survey topics[78] Data[79]	• Aspects of local neighbourhood • Local participation / volunteering From Jan 2005 additional questions added on • Volunteering • Neighbourhood perception (anti-social behaviour)	• Demographic Information • Driving and transport • Young people in household • Health and disability • Household income and employment • Household finances	Commissioned 1998 Data available from 1999- 2008	Households and one random adult within the household	Scotland 2003/2004 Main survey: 30,013 householders Travel diary: c15,618 householders	Local authority areas every 2 years
Continuous Household Survey[80] Questionnaires[81] Data[82]	Social capital Module in 2003/04 • Opinion of local area • Social networks • Participation Module Included in 2005/06 questionnaire	• Family information • Household composition • Education • Employment • Health And many others. For a full list of topics each year see here[83].	CHS began in 1983 Social Capital module in 2003/04 and 2005/06	All individuals aged 16+ resident in the sampled household.	Northern Ireland 2005/06: 2,656 households 6,733 individuals	Northern Ireland Country level, no specific spatial unit level variables for confidentiality reasons
Health Education Monitoring Survey[84] Data[85]	• Social support • Civic engagement	• General health • The environment • The elderly • Skin cancer • Smoking	1995 – 1998 Then discontinued	Adults in private households aged 16 and over	England In 1998 5,800 adults	National

		• Drinking • Physical activity • Nutrition • Classification questions • Sexual behaviour				
Health Survey for England[86] Questionnaire[87] Data[88]	• Neighbourhood characteristics • Trust • Family and friends • Informal social networks • Participation	Focuses on different demographic group or disease condition and its risk factors and looks at health indicators such as • Cardiovascular disease • Physical activity • Eating habits • Accidents • Asthma • Smoking • Drinking	Full survey 1991 - present 2000 a Social capital module was included on HSE Mid – 2001 a shortened version was placed on the survey and administered every year 2005 an extended module focussing on older people in the field. This has additional Social Capital questions	England Adults in private households 16 and over Children aged 2-15 included since 1995 Children aged 0-1 included since 2001 See also Scottish Health Survey[89]; Welsh Health Survey[90]	The sample for 2006 was designed to be a cross-section of the population living in private. The achieved sample size for 2008 was 22,623 cases in the individual file (all individuals who gave a full-interview) and 31,927 cases in the household file (all individuals in co-operating households).	2008: Government Office Region, Strategic Health Authority; Urban/rural indicator (8 categories); Index Multiple Deprivation (grouped into 5 categories)
Northern Ireland Health and Wellbeing Survey[91]	In Social Environment section of main questionnaire • Rating of neighbourhood	Main questionnaire: • General health • Lifetime incidence common ailments • Physical activity	1997 and 2001, 2005-6	Household interview followed by individual interviews with	Northern Ireland. In 2005, 4245 individuals	NI Health Board Area

Link to 2005-06 questionnaire[92] Link to data[93]	• Social interaction • Control over life In Self completion: • Social Support Scale	• Stress In self completion: • Parenting • Sexual health Other: • Smoking • Drinking These are in the self completion for those aged 16 and 17, and in the face to face for adults		all adults aged 16 and over.	In 2001, 3006 households and 5205 individuals. In 1997, 2435 households, 4236 individuals, of whom 1713 gave physical measurements.	
Citizenship Survey[94] 2008-09 data[95]	2003 • Active community participation • Local neighbourhood • Trust • Unpaid help / volunteering • Charitable giving In 2005 the core harmonised question set is part of the HOCS questionnaire The 2008-09 survey covered: • identity and social networks • feelings about the community,	• Demographic information • Family • Employment • Racial prejudice and discrimination • Religious beliefs • Rights and responsibilities	2001, 2003 and 2005 the survey was known as the Home Office Citizenship Survey (HOCS). In 2007 it became the Citizenship survey and moved to a continuous design.	Core sample- adults aged 16 and over and minority ethnic boost sample 2003 only: children (eight and nine year olds) and young people (ten to fifteen year olds)	England and Wales 2008-09 14,917 people (core sample and a minority ethnic boost)	2008-09 • Government Office Region • ODPM Index of deprivation

	including community cohesion • trust and influence • volunteering • civic engagement • race and religious prejudice, and perceptions of discrimination • religion • mixing between people of different backgrounds • values • demographic and some geo-demographic information					
National Adult Learning Survey[96] Data[97]	2001 questions: • Participation • Social engagement	• Experience of full time education • Highest qualifications achieved • Any other learning • Basic skill • Computer and internet use	1997, 2001, and 2002. 2001 only: social capital included	Adults aged 16-69 living in private households	England and Wales 2002 6,668 individuals	Government Office Regions
Survey of English Housing[98] Questionnaire[99] Data[100]	• Local area satisfaction	Core topics: • Tenure • Housing costs • Housing history • Moving intentions Separate module for private tenants:	Began in 1993. Continuous survey with data released yearly In April 2008 the Survey of English Housing (SEH) merged	Families, and households. Interviews carried out with HRP and their spouse/partner	England 2004/05 18,386 households 1930 tenancy group interviews	England Government Office Region, Standard Statistical Region, LA code

		• Tenancy type • Rent • Housing benefits	with the English House Condition Survey (EHCS) to form the new English Housing Survey (EHS).[101]			
Taking Part: The National Survey of Culture, Leisure and Sport[102]	• Volunteering • Local area • Trust • Participation / attendance in sports opportunities, arts opportunities, heritage, museums and galleries, libraries and archives	• Demographic information • Broadcasting • Gambling • Internet	Annual survey which started in 2005/6	Aged 16 and over	England Continuous survey comprising each year approximately: • 27,000 adults • 1,500 boost among black and minority ethnic groups	• GOR • Regions • Acorn • 8 point urban/rural
UK Time Use Survey[103] Questionnaire[104] Data[105]	• Volunteering • Caring for others • Social activities	Diary of all activities on one week day and one weekend day. Individual and household information also collected	2000 only	All individuals aged 8+ in the sampled household.	United Kingdom Achieved 6,414 households in 2000/1.	Government Office Region
The Youth Lifestyles Survey Data[106]	• Participation • Socialisation	• Offending • Schooling • Employment • Income • Family life	Youth lifestyle survey 1992/93 & 1998/99	Young people aged 12 – 30 living in private households	England and Wales 4,848 individuals	Local Authority Standard regions

		• Housing • Attitude to sentencing and justice system • Experience with the police				
Offending Crime and Justice Survey[107] Data[108]	Neighbourhood section: • Local area • Trust • Safety in area / crime • Participation • Social networks	• Demographics • Attitudes • Victimisation • Anti-social behaviour • Fraud and technology • Offending • Drinking behaviour • Drug use • Health, lifestyle and risk factors • Reactions to survey	First wave in 2003 (10 to 65s). Subsequent waves in 2004, 2005, 2006 (10 to 25s only). Rotating panel sample	Nationally representative sample of individuals living in private households (10-65s in 2003; 10-25s in 2004-2006)	England and Wales 2003: 10,085 core sample respondents aged 10-65; booster sample so that 4577 respondents aged 10-25; additional ethnic minority booster sample of 1886 2004: Two thirds of the 5,000 young people interviewed in 2003 received a follow up interview in 2004 2005 and 2006:	PFA Government Office Region *Although these area variables are on the dataset the numbers are likely to be too low to do robust analysis at area level.*

					Follow up interviews with 10 to 25s	

Weighting and Grossing

The information given below gives an example of the weighting used within each survey which covers social capital topics. The example given within each survey is not necessarily the latest dataset available from ESDS. You should refer to the survey documentation on the ESDS web site[109] for the specific year(s)/datasets(s) you are interested in, as the weighting may change slightly from year to year.

Bare Necessities: Poverty and Social Exclusion in Northern Ireland
No weighting variable was used.

British Crime Survey
The BCS has been weighted since 1982. The survey has a number of different weights which should be applied in different circumstances, see the BCS 2004 User guide Vol. 1[110] for a full list of weights. There are three main reasons for weighting the BCS; (1) to compensate for unequal selection probabilities; (2) to compensate for differential response rates; (3) to ensure that quarters are equally weighted for analyses that combine data from more than one quarter.

British Election Study
In 2001 weights were used in this survey to create a nationally representative sample. A separate weight is used for each section of the survey. For the Pre-Election baseline survey this is AWGTGB and will produce a pre-election nationally representative sample. For the Post-Election survey (or the traditional BES) applying POSTOCTW will produce a post-election nationally representative sample. In the Pre-Post Election Panel Survey element BPANWGT will give a nationally representative sample and for the Post Back Mail Questionnaire MAILWGT is the weight applied. See the BES 2001 web site[111] for more details.

British Household Panel Survey
There are separate weights for each wave of the data. In general, there are separate weights for respondent individuals, for all enumerated individuals and for households. The appropriate weight to use will depend on the level of the analysis. Proxy and telephone respondents have zero respondent weights, but positive enumerated individual weights. There are cross-sectional weights for use with the single wave analyses of each wave.

These weights should not be used for longitudinal analysis, the last set of longitudinal weights from the most recent wave should be used. Thus if using waves 1 to 11, the longitudinal weighting from wave 11 would be used. Cases that are enumerated or have responded up to and including the latest wave will have relevant positive longitudinal weights at that wave. At Wave 9 cross-sectional weights were added for the Scottish and Welsh supplements, longitudinal weights were made available for these sub-samples at Wave 10. With the addition of a Northern Ireland sample at Wave 11 new UK wide weights were added, UK longitudinal weights followed at Wave 12. It is possible to analyse each country alone or together with the use of respectively the UK1 or UK2 weights. Please see the ISER web site[112] for more information.

See the Technical Notes on the ESDS web site[113] for more information about the BHPS.

British Social Attitudes
The main dataset (in common with all surveys based on samples from the Postcode Address File) must be weighted to take account of differing selection probabilities. Households are selected with equal probability, but only one person in each household is interviewed. People in small households therefore have a higher probability of selection than people in large households and the weighting corrects for this.

Please note that the data must be weighted in all analyses. The file is ***not*** pre-weighted. Before running any analysis, use the SPSS command weight by wtfactor. The BSA has been weighted since 1983. The 2002 survey has one sample design weight (Wtfactor) used to compensate for unequal selection probabilities (because only one person per household is interviewed). See the BSA 2004 User Guide[114].

Continuous Household Survey
No weighting used. Grossed estimates are produced based on the mid-year population estimates[115].

English House Condition Survey
The EHCS is a stratified sample with weights to address the sampling structure, non-response and grossing to national estimates for dwellings and households. Details on sampling and grossing can be found in the technical annex to the report on the Communities and Local Government web site[116].

English Longitudinal Study of Ageing
The variable in the dataset to be used for weighting is w1wgt. Weights were calculated for the core sample members only (including proxy and partial interviews), as this was the sample of interest. All other non-sample individuals that were interviewed (i.e. new and younger partners) have a weight of zero. When running weighted analyses, researchers should remember to exclude non-sample members in the unweighted base, if quoted. The data for partners can be used as characteristics of the core members (i.e. supplementary information). See the User Guide[117] for more information.

Families and Children Survey (FACS)

The FACS contains weights for both cross-sectional and longitudinal research. Grossing weights are supplied summating to sample numbers (fGROSSW) and to administrative numbers for population estimates (fGROSSP). Prior to the 2001 wave, FACs contains a representative sample of 'low to moderate income families', defined in relation to benefit receipt of Family Credit, Working Family Tax Credit (WFTC), or Working Tax Credit. Further details are provided (see online documentation). For waves 2001 to 2004, a larger sample reflecting all families (and not just low-moderate income ones) is represented. Consequently, longitudinal weights reflect these sample differences. In the 1999-2004 dataset, there is a 'longitudinal weight for all families' which can be used for looking at waves 3-6 (2001 onwards) with a base of all families with dependent children for the 2001 sample (fLWAF). A further 'longitudinal weight for original families' (fLWOF) is included providing a panel weight for the original families from the 1999 dataset (i.e. low to moderate income families).

Online [118]documentation can be found on the ESDS web site.

General Household Survey
Since 2000, a dual weighting scheme has been introduced to the GHS. The dataset contains one weighting variable for two purposes, (1) to compensate for non-response in the sample, and (2) to gross up to match known population distributions in terms of region, age-group and sex. The 2002-2003 weighting variable is called Weight01. See Appendix D in the 2002 GHS report[119] for more information.

Health Education Monitoring Survey
The weighting factors used are number of adults aged 16 years and over in household, age, gender and region (living in South East or not).

Health Survey for England
Weighting variables are year specific owing to differing sample design and the survey topic each year. For example, in 2000 weights are added for different probabilities of selection in care homes - see the 2000 User Guide[120]. In 2002, no weights need to be applied if only using the adult general population sample or the boost sample of 16-24 year olds on its own. However, if using the boost sample of 16-24 year olds together with the adult general population sample, a sample design weight which accounts for unequal probabilities of selection needs to be applied (tablewt). The HSE data will be weighted from 2003 onwards for non-response. See the 2003 User Guide[121]. For all children's data (1995 onwards), a child weight needs to be applied to account for unequal selection probabilities. Also see the 2004 User Guide[122] for further information.

Citizenship Survey
In 2001 weights were applied to the whole sample to take account of the over-representation of minority ethnic groups. Weighting was also applied to the core sample to correct for unequal selection probabilities and to compensate for differential non-response among some

population sub-groups. See the 2001 Technical Report[123] for full details. In 2003 weights were applied to the core and whole sample as in 2001. There was an additional stage of weighting in 2003 that ensured that both samples matched the population figures in terms of their age, sex and regional distribution. Further information can be found in the 2003[124] and 2005[125] Technical Reports available on the ESDS website.

National Adult Learning Survey
The 2002 data has several weights. The data is weighted to correct for different household selection probabilities (wt1), for different selection probabilities within the household (wt2) and to correct for non-response (wt3). There are no weights to correct for the number of courses undertaken. There were three points in the survey where there was a possibility of follow up questions; in these circumstances weights have been calculated to correct for questions that follow-up randomly selected items (wt4, wt5 and wt6). In addition a composite weight was calculated (weight = wt1 x wt2 x wt3) to correct for different household selection probabilities, different selection probabilities and non-response. This can be used for analysis at an individual level. See the 2002 Technical report[126] for more information.

Northern Ireland Crime Survey
This survey was weighted to account for unequal likelihood of selection in larger households as only one individual per household was interviewed.

Northern Ireland Health and Wellbeing Survey
The 2001 survey does not include weights because a simple random sample of addresses was selected. However, a weight was required in 1997 because the survey was designed to select equal samples from each of the Four Health and Social Services Board, which meant that overall the survey would not accurately reflect the Northern Ireland population. Weighting adjusts the results to those that would be achieved if the sample had been drawn as a random sample of addresses in NI. A weight was also required for the physical appraisal element of the 1997 study. Only one adult was selected from each household for the physical measures, therefore individuals living in large households had a lower chance of being included in the sample than individuals in small households. This weighting process adjusts the results to those that would have been achieved if the sample had been drawn as a random sample of adults rather than addresses. Thus, the 1997 dataset contains two weights (Indvni and Physni). More information is available in the 1997 User Guide[127].

Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey
The main dataset (in common with all surveys based on samples from the Postcode Address File) must be weighted to take account of differing selection probabilities. Households are selected with equal probability, but only one person in each household is interviewed. People in small households therefore have a higher probability of selection than people in large households and the weighting corrects for this.

Please note that the data must be weighted in all analyses. The file is ***not*** pre-weighted. Before running any analysis, please use the SPSS command weight by wtfactor. The survey has been weighted since 1983. The 2002 survey has one sample design weight (Wtfactor) used to compensate for unequal selection probabilities. See the Technical Notes[128] for more detail.

Scottish Household Survey
There are four weights in the 2003 SHS dataset. LA_WT adjusts for differences in sampling fractions and response rates between local authorities and should be used when analysing household, household member and vehicle variables. IND_WT is the individual weight to be used when analysing Random Adult data. KID_WT is the individual weight used to analyse Random Schoolchild data. RANKIDWT contains the weight to be used when analysing the random child data. See the 2003 User Guide[129] for more information.

Scottish Social Attitudes
The main dataset (in common with all surveys based on samples from the Postcode Address File) must be weighted to take account of differing selection probabilities. Households are selected with equal probability, but only one person in each household is interviewed. People in small households therefore have a higher probability of selection than people in large households and the weighting corrects for this.

The SSAS has been weighted since 1983. The 2002 survey has one sample design weight (Wtfactor) used to compensate for unequal selection probabilities (because only one person per household is interviewed). Since the 2003 survey, there are also weighting factors for urban and rural addresses: WtFactor (whole sample), WtRural (to analyse rural addresses), WtRemote (to analyse remote addresses) and WtUrban (to analyse urban addresses). The SSA 2004 User Guide[130] explains this in more detail.

Survey of English Housing
The SEH has been weighted since 1994/95 to produce population estimates and to compensate for different response rates among households. The 2001/02 dataset has two weight variables (H4d and H4dt), both of which combine weights for non-response and grossing: (1) h4d - weights for non-response and grosses to households in England (in 000s); (2) h4dt - weights for non-response and grosses to tenancy groups in England (in 000s). See the 2001/02 User Guide 2[131] for more information.

Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey
A final weight (wt4) should be used when analysing the data. It is made up of four elements: a weight for country, a weight for income quintiles, a weight for probability of selection and a non-response weight. The PSE interviewed one person per household, oversampled households in Scotland and oversampled households in the lowest quintile groups of equivalised income. Several weights were calculated for this and used to create the wt4 variable: Wt1 - weighting for country; Wt2 - weighting for income group; Wt3a – c are used to take account of household size. See the 1999 User Guide[132].

Time Use Survey
The TUS uses weighting for a variety of reasons. There are different weights on the different files (individual questionnaire file, worksheet file, household questionnaire file and diary file). For more information go to the Time Use 2000 User Guide.[133]

There are two individual questionnaire weights: both weights compensate for non-response and are calibrated to UK population characteristics for age-group, sex and region. The difference between the two weights is that one grosses to the UK population and the other does not. wtpq_ug is the ungrossed weight which weights to the achieved sample size, wtpq_gr is the grossed weight which weights to UK population of those aged 8 years or more living in private households.

There are two worksheet weights, as individual weights, wtwrk_ug is ungrossed and wtwrk_gr is grossed. There are two diary weights, as individual weights but also compensates for differential sampling of weekdays and weekends, wtdwh_ug is ungrossed weight and wtdwh_gr is grossed.

There are six household questionnaire weights, as individual weights but two separate weights for each of following:

- households with dairy-keepers: (1) wtdh_ug is ungrossed; (2) wtdg_gr is grossed
- households with worksheet-keepers: (3) wtwh_ug is ungrossed; (4) wtwg_gr is grossed
- households with diary and worksheet-keepers: (5) wtdh_ug is ungrossed; (6) wtdg_gr is grossed (from health guide)

Youth Lifestyles Survey/Offending Crime and Justice Survey

1) Youth Lifestyles Survey 1998-99
For analysis in this survey a weight (finalwgt) has been constructed to correct for five elements: (i) over representation of inner-city residents; (ii) cases where there was more than one dwelling at the PAF address; (iii) under-representation of individuals living in households with more than one resident aged 12 – 30; (iv) over-sampling in high crime rate areas; (v) non-response. For the Computer Assisted Self Interview questions on offending a sixth factor is corrected for – age – as response rates differed by age for these questions (wgtofndr). When undertaking analysis of the CASI offending questions the weight to use is called 'wgtofndr'. When undertaking any other analyses use the weight 'finalwgt'. See the 1998-99 User Guide[134] for more information.

2) Offending, Crime and Justice Survey 2003 onwards
The 2003 OCJS uses two series of weights, one designed for the combined core and youth boost samples and the other for the non-white boost sample. These are documented more fully in the Technical Report**.**

Young person sample - most of the steps involved for the core sample were repeated for the young person boost sample. One difference is that inability to identify non-responding young people means we cannot estimate a non-response model, however, the profile of the core sample members aged 10-25 was used to indicate the magnitude of the weights likely to be appropriate for the boost sample.

Combined core sample - the core 10-65 and young person 10-25 boost samples were combined. The weights derived from the steps described above were optimised by comparing the weighted samples within Government Office Regions, using a 14-category breakdown by age, repeated for male and female respondents. The comparator was the 2001 Census profile for the GOR. An iterative process was employed to optimise the cell weights applied to the sample, in order to minimise the overall magnitude of the weighting adjustments. Details of this stage of weighting are given in Appendix F.

The refinements to the weights resulting from this process were applied to the original core sample weight (variable Wt_Core). This may be used for all analysis of the combined core sample and the boost sample of young people.

Non-White boost sample - a similar procedure was applied for the cases in the non-white boost sample. Initially, the non-white members of the core youth boost and non-white boost samples were individually weighted to the profile of the respondents in the core sample. The three groups were then separately scaled so that the weighted number of cases was equal to the number of achieved interviews. At this stage they were combined and the same process of weighting to the census profile within Government Office Regions. The appropriate weight for analysis of the non-White boost sample is variable 'Wt_Eth'.

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